
If you believe you are eligible to vote and encounter difficulty registering, please contact the Wisconsin State Elections Board:

Wisconsin State Elections Board
132 East Wilson Street, Suite 200
P.O. Box 2973
Madison, WI 53701-2973
(608) 266-8005 (voice)
(608) 267-0500 (fax)

If the Wisconsin State Elections Board is unable to help you, or to report a problem, contact:

U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Voting Section, Rm. 7254 - NWB
Washington, D.C. 20530
(202) 307-2767 (voice)
(800) 253-3931 (toll-free)
(202) 307-3961 (fax)
www.usdoj.gov/crt

This pamphlet is provided for informational purposes only, as an aid to further inquiry. The laws in many states are revised frequently, and may have changed since this pamphlet was issued. It is your responsibility to determine whether you are lawfully eligible to vote, and criminal penalties can result from voting when ineligible or making false statements on a registration form.

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U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division



Restoring Your Right to Vote



The right to vote is an important civil right in a democracy as well as a civic responsibility, and yet many persons who have been convicted of a crime do not know whether they are eligible to vote. For both federal and state elections, the right to vote is controlled by the law of the state in which you live. Some states restrict the right to vote for persons who have been convicted of a crime. This pamphlet is intended to help you determine whether you are eligible to vote in the state in which you live, and if so, what steps you must take to be permitted to vote.

What law governs whether my felony conviction limits my right to vote?

The impact of a criminal conviction on the right to vote varies widely from state to state. Whether you can vote after being convicted of a crime is determined by the state in which you live, not the state in which you were convicted.

Can I vote while I'm incarcerated in Wisconsin?

If you are a resident of Wisconsin, and you have been convicted of treason, felony, or bribery, you cannot vote while you are incarcerated.

If you are a resident of another state who is temporarily incarcerated in Wisconsin, you may be able to vote by absentee ballot in your home state. You need to consult the law of your home state regarding both criminal convictions and absentee ballots to see if this is a possibility.

I have been released from incarceration. How do I restore my right to vote?

Your right to vote is automatically restored upon completion of your sentence.

What if my conviction was for a federal crime?

If you are a resident of Wisconsin, the same rules apply whether you were convicted of a federal or state crime.

What if I was convicted in another state?

The same rules apply for Wisconsin voters even if the conviction occurred in another state.

What happens if I move to another state?

If you move to another state, your right to vote will be controlled by the laws of that state.

What are Wisconsin's other voter registration requirements?

To register to vote in Wisconsin, you must:

- be a U.S. citizen and resident of Wisconsin and your election district or ward for at least 10 days before the election
- be at least 18 years old
- not have been found by a court to be incapable of understanding the objective of the electoral process
- not make or benefit from a bet or wage depending on the result of an election

When do I need to register to vote?

In order to vote in Wisconsin, you need to register by the second Wednesday preceding the election. You can also register on the day of the election at your polling place or by bringing a completed registration form to the municipal clerk's office.

Where do I go to register?

Registration is available at many places in Wisconsin, including:

- the municipal clerk's office
- office of register of deeds
- public high schools, if you are a student or staff member
- registration drives
- fire stations, libraries, community centers, and other locations often are used as registration sites
- at your polling place on election day (you must bring acceptable identification, including proof of residence)

Registration may also be available at other state service agencies. Contact the municipal clerk's office near you to find out which service agencies provide voter registration.